AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A liquid ~~absorbing~~ absorbent material comprising ~~primarily~~ an open-cell polymeric foam material comprising either polysaccharide or polypeptide, ~~the foam material including a continuous three-dimensional network surrounding a gaseous phase dispersed therein, the foam material being suitable for use as an absorbent structure in absorbent articles,~~ the foam material having an absorption rate at wetting of at least 0.4 ml/s for a round sample having a 50 mm diameter, a liquid distribution capacity at an inclination of 30° of at least 15 g/g and a liquid storage capacity of at least 9% measured through centrifuge retention capacity, for synthetic urine test liquid.

2. (Currently amended) A liquid absorbent ~~foam~~ material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the absorption rate at wetting is at least 0.5 ml/s, the liquid distribution capacity at an inclination of 30° is at least 16 g/g, and the liquid storage capacity measured through centrifuge retention capacity is at least 11%.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) A liquid[[,]] absorbent ~~foam~~ material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the foam material contains fibers in its pore system.

5. (Currently amended) An absorbent structure in an absorbent article, wherein the absorbent structure comprises a liquid absorbent ~~open-cell foam~~ material according to claim 1.

6. (Previously presented) An absorbent structure as claimed in claim 5, wherein said absorbent structure is comprised solely of said foam material.

7. (Previously presented) An absorbent structure as claimed in claim 5, wherein the foam material has a three-dimensional anatomic shape.

8. (Currently amended) A liquid absorbent ~~open-cell polymer foam~~ material as set forth in claim 1, wherein the liquid absorbent material is used in an absorbent structure in an absorbent article and the absorbent article is a diaper, a pant ~~diapers~~ diaper, a sanitary ~~napkins~~ napkin, an incontinence guard, a wound dressing, or a bed protection.

9. (Previously presented) An absorbent structure in an absorbent article as claimed in claim 5, wherein the absorbent article is a diaper, a pant diaper, a sanitary napkin, an incontinence guard, a wound dressing, or a bed protection.

10. (Currently amended) A liquid absorbent ~~foam~~ material as claimed in claim [[3]] 20, wherein the gel liquid absorption is at least 5 g/g synthetic urine.

11. (Currently amended) A liquid absorbent ~~foam~~ material as claimed in claim [[3]] 20, wherein the capillary liquid absorption is at least 10 ml/g synthetic urine.

12. (Currently amended) A liquid absorbent ~~foam~~ material as claimed in claim [[3]] 20, wherein the gel liquid absorption is at least 5 g/g synthetic urine and the capillary liquid absorption is at least 10 ml/g synthetic urine.

13. (Currently amended) A liquid absorbent material comprising ~~primarily~~ an open-cell polymeric foam material comprising either polysaccharide or polypeptide, ~~the foam material including a continuous three-dimensional network surrounding a gaseous phase dispersed therein, the foam material being suitable for use as an absorbent structure in an absorbent article,~~ the foam material having a first distribution of pore sizes between 0 and 3 µm and a second distribution of pore sizes between 3 and 100 µm, the foam material having an absorption rate at wetting of at least 0.4 ml/s for a round sample having a 50 mm diameter, a liquid distribution capacity at an inclination of 30° of at least 15 g/g, and a liquid storage capacity of at

least 9% measured through centrifuge retention capacity, for synthetic urine test liquid.

14. (Currently amended) A liquid absorbent material comprising ~~primarily~~ an open-cell polymeric foam material comprising either polysaccharide or polypeptide, ~~the foam material including a continuous three-dimensional network surrounding a gaseous phase dispersed therein, the foam material being suitable for use as an absorbent structure in an absorbent article,~~ the foam material having pore sizes between 0 and 500 µm, the foam material having an absorption rate at wetting of at least 0.4 ml/s for a round sample having a 50 mm diameter, a liquid distribution capacity at an inclination of 30° of at least 15 g/g, and a liquid storage capacity of at least 9% measured through centrifuge retention capacity, for synthetic urine test liquid.

15. (Currently amended) A liquid absorbent material comprising ~~primarily~~ an open-cell polymeric foam material comprising either polysaccharide or polypeptide, ~~the foam material including a continuous three-dimensional network surrounding a gaseous phase dispersed therein, the foam material being suitable for use as an absorbent structure in an absorbent article,~~ the foam material having a first distribution of pore sizes between 0 and 3 µm and a second distribution of pore sizes between 3 and 500 µm, the foam material having an absorption rate at wetting of at least 0.4 ml/s for a round sample having a 50 mm diameter, a liquid distribution capacity at an inclination of 30° of at least 15 g/g, and a liquid storage capacity of at least 9% measured through centrifuge retention capacity, for synthetic urine test liquid.

16. – 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A liquid absorbent ~~foam~~ material as claimed in claim 1, having a first distribution of pores with a diameter less than 3 µm which produces a gel liquid absorption of at least 4 g/g synthetic urine, and

a second distribution of pores with a diameter between 3 and 100 µm which produces a capillary liquid absorption of at least 8 ml/g.